

# Fact sheet on Columbia Housing Authority redevelopment plans

A resource from the Columbia Missourian

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## What's happening?

The Columbia Housing Authority is working with a team of consultants to put together a plan for redeveloping downtown public housing apartments. At this point, the housing authority is leaning toward renovating the apartments rather than tearing them down and rebuilding them. Consultants estimate it will cost \$80,000 to renovate each apartment; rebuilding the apartments would cost about \$120,000 per unit.

## How soon might it happen?

Housing Authority CEO Phil Steinhaus has said that if renovation plans are approved, redevelopment projects will begin in the spring or summer of 2014, starting with apartments on Lincoln and Unity drives.

## Who are the consultants?

ND Consulting Group, Capital Consultants Inc. and Tim Person and Associates, all of St. Louis. ND Consulting is leading the overall planning effort. Capital Consultants is working to assess public housing needs, and Person and Associates is work-

ing to forge partnerships with and gather input from residents and other community stakeholders.

## What apartment improvements are recommended?

The consultants are recommending changes in the architectural layout that will:

- Create more overall space in the apartments.
- Allow more closets and storage space.
- Relocate first-floor bathrooms.
- Redesign kitchen floor plans.

## They are also recommending:

- Replacing floors and stabilizing floor slabs.
- Installing exhaust fans in kitchens.
- Adding insulation.
- Installing dryer hook-ups.
- Installing new electric stoves to replace natural gas models.

A copy of the consultants' report and a more complete list of recommended improvements can be downloaded at <http://bit.ly/columbiahousing>.

## What else would you like to know?

The Missourian plans to continue reporting on the housing authority's plans. Please let us know if there are particular questions you'd like to have us explore.

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